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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
Fourth session
11-21 February 1997
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PANEL ON ITS FOURTH SESSION

Chapter ___

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development held its fourth session from 11 to 21 February 1997, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1996/230. The Panel held ___ meetings (1st to ___ meetings).

2. The session was opened by one of the Co-Chairmen, Sir Martin Holdgate (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The other Co-Chairman, Mr. Manuel Rodríguez (Colombia), also made an opening statement.

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development made an introductory statement.

B. Election of officers

4. At the 1st meeting, on 11 February 1997, the Panel elected Mr. S. K. Pande (India) Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the fourth session, to replace Mr. M. F. Ahmed (India), who had retired.

5. The Bureau of the Panel comprised the following officers:

Co-Chairmen: Sir Martin Holdgate (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr. Manuel Rodríguez (Colombia)

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Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Juste Boussienguet (Gabon)
Mr. S. K. Pande (India)
Mr. Anatoliy I. Pisarenko (Russian Federation)

6. As decided at the second session of the Panel, Mr. Juste Boussienguet (Gabon) also served as Rapporteur at the fourth session.

C. Agenda and organization of work

7. At the 1st meeting, on 11 February 1997, the Panel adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document E/CN.17/IPF/1997/1, and approved its organization of work. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Implementation of forest-related decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national and international levels, including an examination of sectoral and cross-sectoral linkages.

3. International cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer.

4. Scientific research, forest assessment and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

5. Trade and environment in relation to forest products and services.

6. International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments, including appropriate legal mechanisms.

7. Other matters.

8. Adoption of the report of the Panel on its fourth session.

8. Also at the 1st meeting, the Panel agreed to establish two in-session working groups, each to be chaired by one of the Co-Chairmen.

D. Attendance

9. The session was attended by representatives of ___ States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, and the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and secretariats of treaty bodies, and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. (A list of participants will be included in annex I to the final report.)

E. Documentation

10. The Panel had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its third session (Geneva, 9-20 September 1996) (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat transmitting a note by the Co-Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on elements of a draft report of the Panel on its fourth session (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on programme element V.1: International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on options for follow-up to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests in relation to programme element V.2: Contribution to consensus-building towards the further implementation of the Forest Principles (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/5);

(e) Letter dated 15 January 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Colombia and Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the results of the International Meeting of Indigenous and Other Forest-Dependent Peoples on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, which was held in Leticia, Colombia, from 9 to 13 December 1996 (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/6);

(f) Letter dated 27 January 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Sweden and Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Governmental Workshop of Experts on Sustainable Forestry and Land Use, which was held in Stockholm, from 14 to 18 October 1996 (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/7);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the text of decision III/12, adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 4 to 15 November 1996 (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/8);

(h) Note verbale dated 5 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final report of the International Workshop on Integrated Application of Sustainable Forest Management Practices, held in Kochi, Japan, from 22 to 25 November 1996 (E/CN.17/IPF/1997/9).